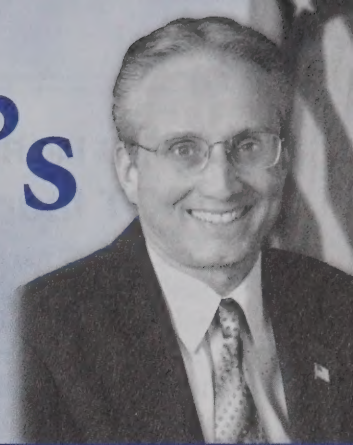




The Commissioner's REPORT



New Jersey
Transportation
Highlights

Governor
James E. McGreevey

June 2003

Commissioner
Jack Lettiere

News briefs

NJDOT launches streamlined 'pipeline'

See page 2

**NJDOT awards \$1 million
for Wall Township bike path**

See page 2

**Safety Impact Team
conducts safety review of Route 1**

See page 3

**Camden completes \$2.1 million
reconstruction of Delaware Ave.**

See page 3

Helpful Numbers

See back page



Governor McGreevey lays the first piece of track in the initial phase of a new \$80 million ship-to-rail facility at the Newark/Elizabeth Port Authority Marine Terminal. The new rail facility is part of \$4.4 billion in public and private sector investments in the port. With him are Vince Alisi, Secretary Treasurer of the International Longshoremen's Association, Local 1238 and Commissioner Jack Lettiere.

INVESTING IN OUR ECONOMY, IMPROVING SAFETY

Governor unveils largest public investment ever made in state's rail freight infrastructure

Sustaining New Jersey's economic strength is a priority for the McGreevey Administration. To ensure the vitality of the state's ports, the Governor has unveiled an \$80 million investment in rail freight infrastructure at Port Newark/Elizabeth.

Over the next 20 years, New Jersey anticipates a 90 percent growth in truck/rail freight movement. This historic investment will prepare the port for record demand. It will immediately create 36,000 jobs and spur close to \$2 billion in economic activity.

The infrastructure improvements are designed to increase the rail share of freight and slow the growth of

truck traffic on highways. The improvements will reduce the number of idling trains and enable trains to pass each other safely and efficiently.

Currently, 13 percent of all freight leaves Port Newark/Elizabeth by rail. Under the New Jersey Rail Freight Improvement Plan, 25 percent of all freight will leave by rail.

It makes sense for the economy: the plan will translate into job creation and boost the regional economy.

It makes sense for the environment: rail consumes one-third the energy and emits one-third the pollution as trucks.

And it makes sense for New Jersey residents: the plan

Continued on back page

PUTTING MORE WORK ON THE STREET

NJDOT launches streamlined project delivery 'pipeline'

The NJDOT has met a major goal of government efficiency and job creation set by the McGreevey Administration. The Department has successfully restructured its project delivery process, called the pipeline, so that within two years, NJDOT will be able to double the amount of work put on the street on an annual basis.

The four new pipelines will allow the Department to deliver projects more expeditiously while maintaining the high level of quality and safety New Jersey residents deserve. Under the new system, the Department will be able to address New Jersey's transportation needs when they occur and put more work on the street than ever before.

The four pipelines are designed for four distinct types of projects, from simple improvements to complex investments in the state's infrastructure.

The gains in efficiency will yield benefits not only for NJDOT, but for the residents of New Jersey and the transportation industry as a whole. Specifically, the benefits are as follows:

Cutting red tape

- Cuts the number steps before construction by 50.
- Reduces design costs by 25 percent.
- Many projects that may have taken 2 ½ to 6 years before contracts, can now go out to bid in 1 year.

Putting more work on the street

- Within 2 years, NJDOT expects to double the number of projects coming out of Capital Project Management – from 40 to 80 projects every year.
- The new pipeline will give NJDOT the capability to award over \$1 billion in contracts per year, funding 42,000 construction jobs.

Red tape is not an asset to this operation. The State's time, money and effort are better spent spurring our economy, enhancing safety, and ensuring the vitality of New Jersey's transportation infrastructure. The new pipeline will free up valuable time and resources for the important work that needs to be done.



NJDOT awards \$1 million for Wall Township bike path



Commissioner Lettiere presents Mayor Mary Burne of Wall Township a ceremonial check for \$1 million towards the construction of a new bike path along the Route 18 right of way. With them are (front row) Cyclist Ann Kuimer and Senator Joseph Palaia (R-11th); (back row) Cyclists Mike Kuimer and Harden Fowler, Councilmen Robert Peters and Mark Brosnan, Cyclist Wally Tunison, Deputy Mayor Edward Thomson III, Executive Director of Tri-State Transportation Campaign Janine Bauer and Alliance for Action President Phil Beachem.

MAKING OUR HIGHWAYS SAFER

Safety Impact Team conducts safety review of Route 1

More than 700 people died in motor vehicle crashes in New Jersey last year. The McGreevey Administration is committed to improving safety and saving lives on New Jersey highways.

In March, Governor McGreevey unveiled Safety First, the first comprehensive highway safety initiative in New Jersey in the last two decades.

And, in May, New Jersey became the first state in the nation to welcome the Federal Highway Administration's Safety Impact Team. Over the course of one week, the Team completed a thorough safety review of a ten-mile stretch of Route 1, one of 13 designated "Safe Corridors" under the Governor's Safety First program. "Safe Corridors" are stretches of road that have more accidents than the state average.

The Safety Impact Team is comprised of individuals with various backgrounds and expertise from the NJDOT, NJ TRANSIT, the Federal Highway Administration, state and local law enforcement, the Federal Motor Carrier Administration and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Team observed ten hours of traffic on Route 1

between Franklin Corner Road in Lawrence Township and Ridge Road in South Brunswick. Identified as a traffic hotspot, more than 677,000 vehicles travel through this corridor every day. In the last two years more than 1,400 accidents occurred along the ten-mile corridor.

The Team will issue a full report and recommendations for improving safety within two months to the NJDOT. Recommendations will include short, medium and long-term fixes, incorporating the 'three Es,' engineering, education and enforcement.

However, the NJDOT will not wait to implement some of the Team's immediate recommendations. An interim plan to be executed immediately will include improving signal timing for cars and pedestrians at intersections, a full review of all directional signals along the highway, acceleration of scheduling for pavement resurfacing projects and exploring the establishment of a driver safety partnership with the business community.

Improvements made as a result of Safety Impact Teams will reduce the risk of accidents on this corridor. The review is the first in a series that will be conducted on "Safe Corridors" throughout New Jersey.

REVITALIZING OUR CITIES

Camden completes \$2.1 million reconstruction of Delaware Ave.

Keeping with Governor McGreevey's commitment to revitalize the city of Camden, the NJDOT has made an important investment to reconstruct Delaware Avenue between Vine Street and Erie Street in Camden. The \$2.1 million reconstruction was completed this month as part of the Governor's ongoing \$175 million renovation of the city.

This project is a prime example of our Fix-It-First policy that focuses transportation re-investment in the state's older urban infrastructure.

The project was made possible through the NJDOT's Local Aid program, which provides \$265 million this year to local governments and preserves property tax relief for New Jersey residents.

Governor McGreevey recognizes that a steady program of repair for our urban roads and bridges is the foundation for a strong, vibrant economy. The new Delaware Avenue provides trucks with access to the North Camden Industrial Park to help restore industry to the once thriving neighborhood.

The new road also provides easy and safe access to the Camden Waterfront and to Campbell's Soup baseball field. It has been specifically designed to support activities along waterfront and potential future development of the area.

Despite a difficult fiscal climate, Governor McGreevey has maintained NJDOT's \$2.58 billion capital

program. The program will fund projects such as the reconstruction of Delaware Avenue that repair the state's infrastructure, encourage Smart Growth development and enhance the quality of life throughout the state.



The newly renovated section of Delaware Avenue along the Camden waterfront was the centerpiece of a ribbon-cutting on May 2. Performing the ceremonial duties are Commissioner Jack Lettiere, Council President Angel Fuentes, Senator Wayne Bryant (D-5th), Mayor Gwendolyn Faison and County Executive Randy Primas.

Governor unveils Continued from front page

will mean less congestion on our highways and a stronger economy statewide.

The program is a private-public partnership between the Class I railroads, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the State. Projects such as double tracking and signal improvements will create a safer, more efficient rail network.

The Rail Freight Improvement Plan projects include \$50 million in capital improvements along the Chemical Coast Line and the Lehigh Valley Line. In addition, it will spend \$30 million to clear up one of New Jersey's biggest

rail bottlenecks at Croxton Yard and New County Road in Secaucus.

This Administration is committed to ensuring the vitality of New Jersey's freight industry and reducing congestion on crowded highways. If Port Elizabeth is to accommodate \$70 billion in extra freight every year, it must be able to utilize the full potential of the rail freight network.

The \$80 million investment in the Rail Freight Improvement Plan is only the beginning. Phases II and III of this important initiative will follow in coming years.

New Jersey
Department of Transportation
PO Box 600
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600



Printed on recycled paper

PRST STD
U.S. Postage
Paid
Trenton, NJ
Permit No. 21

Helpful Numbers

Title	Name	Number
Commissioner	Jack Lettiere	(609) 530-2000
Deputy Commissioner	James Snyder	(609) 530-8049
Chief of Staff	Kris Kolluri	(609) 530-3536
Deputy Chief of Staff	Tina Lado	(609) 530-2012
Executive Director of Customer Advocacy & Public Outreach	Aaron Watson	(609) 530-2840
Legislative Liaison	Sharon Shinkle Gardner	(609) 530-4821
Federal Liaison	Paul Penna	(609) 530-6118



The Commissioner's Report is a publication of the New Jersey Department of Transportation. To subscribe online, click on <http://www.nj.gov/transportation/newsletter/newslettersignup/subscribe.htm> To correct an address or for further information, please call (609) 530-4280.